

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2598

USDOC WASHDC

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUDAPEST 0260

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: BBAK, BDIS, HU

SUBJ: ACTIVITIES OF DR. EMIL ONACA OF INTERCONTINENTAL
CONSULTANTS LTD.

1. OFFICIALS OF HUNGARIAN MINISTRY OF FOREIGN TRADE HAVE COMPLAINED ORALLY FOR SECOND TIME TO EMBASSY OFFICERS CONCERNING THE COMMERCIAL ACTIVITIES IN HUNGARY OF DR. EMIL ONACA, PRESIDENT OF INTERCONTINENTAL CONSULTANTS LTD., 120 EAST 31ST, NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10016. MINISTRY IS DISTURBED BY LENGTHY AND SOMEWHAT INCOHERENT LETTERS WHICH ONACA HAS ADDRESSED TO HIGH GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS INCLUDING PARTY FIRST SECRETARY KADAR AND PRIME MINISTER FOCK, AND HIS CONTINUED ATTEMPTS TO OBTAIN MEETINGS WITH SUCH TOP-RANKING PERSONNEL FOR STATED PURPOSE OF PROMOTING U.S.-HUNGARIAN TRADE. MINISTRY PROTOCOL CHIEF TOLD EMBASSY PAO AT RECEPTION RECENTLY THAT IT WAS CONSIDERING EXPELLING ONACA FROM COUNTRY AND IN ANY CASE WOULD NOT ISSUE HIM NEW VISA AS IT REGARDED HIM AS NUISANCE WHO WAS NOT SERIOUSLY ENGAGED IN BUSINESS OF TRADE PROMOTION. MFT ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT IT WOULD PREFER TO SEE ONACA LEAVE HUNGARY VOLUNTARILY AND ASKED THAT EMBASSY TALK TO ONACA AND CONVEY MINISTRY'S DISSATISFACTION WITH MANNER WITH WHICH HE HAS CONDUCTED HIMSELF HERE.

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2. EMBASSY ECONOFF MET WITH ONACA JANUARY 28 TO DISCUSS

HIS BUSINESS ACTIVITIES IN HUNGARY AND AT SAME TIME INFORMED HIM THAT MFT HAD VOICED TO US THEIR CONCERN REGARDING HIS DIRECT APPROACHES TO TOP PARTY AND GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. IN RAMBLING AND NOT ENTIRELY COHERENT RESPONSE, ONACA STATED THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN ARRANGING COOPERATIVE VENTURE BETWEEN U.S. AND HUNGARIAN PARTNERS IN FIELDS OF AGRICULTURAL MACHINERY OR TEXTILE MACHINERY AND HAD WRITTEN TO KADAR BECAUSE OF SLOW RESPONSE TO HIS PROPOSALS FROM HUNGARIAN FOREIGN TRADING COMPANIES. ONACA, WHO IS NATURALIZED U.S. CITIZEN BORN IN ROMANIA, CLAIMS TO HAVE BEEN ACTIVE IN PROMOTING ROMANIAN-AMERICAN TRADE IN PERIOD SINCE 1969 AND SAYS HE WAS PERSONALLY WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR ARRANGING DEAL BETWEEN OFFSHORE COMPANY OF HOUSTON, TEXAS AND ROMANIAN FOREIGN TRADING COMPANY IMPEXMIN FOR PURCHASE OF AMERICAN OFFSHORE OIL EQUIPMENT. HE STATED THAT HE WELL KNOWN TO EMBASSY BUCHAREST COMMERCIAL SECTION AND PARTICULARLY TO FORMER ECONOMIC COUNSELLOR BREMANTE.

3. EMBASSY WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION THAT DEPT, USDOC OR EMBASSY BUCHAREST CAN PROVIDE US ON ONACA, AND IN PARTICULAR WHETHER OR NOT HIS COMPANY IS A LEGITIMATE AND ACTIVE ONE. ADDITIONALLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING EXAMPLES OF PROJECTS IN WHICH HE HAS BEEN DIRECTLY INVOLVED. ONACA STATES THAT HE LEFT ROMANIA IN 1949 AND EMIGRATED TO U.S. FROM FRANCE IN 1951. HE CLAIMS TO HOLD A MASTERS DEGREE IN ECONOMICS FROM COLUMBIA UNIV AND WAS EMPLOYED IN EARLY 60'S AS SENIOR POLITICAL ANALYST AT MISSILE AND SPACE SYSTEMS DIVISION OF DOUGLAS AIRCRAFT COMPANY.

4. FOR MOSCOW: DURING VISIT TO BUDAPEST LAST SUMMER, ONACA TOLD EMBASSY CONSOFF THA HE WOULD BE TRAVELLING ONWARD TO MOSCOW ON BUSINESS AND WAS TRYING TO ARRANGE MEETINGS WITH HIGH SOVIET OFFICIALS INCLUDING BRESHNEV. PEDERSEN

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